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OF
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*A.I.A. Convention City
Awards of Merit*

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The President's Letter

By

Robert P. Woltz, Jr.
President,
Texas Society of Architects



I am writing this letter in the hopes that it will be in the hands of the membership in time to aid in encouraging some of you to make up your mind to attend the A.I.A. Convention in New Orleans, June 22 through June 26. This is a good opportunity to combine vacation and business. Some of you know that you will take a vacation, so why not plan to make your vacation and convention one and the same.

The one fact that the theme of this convention being "Design", should interest many of the members of T.S.A. The fact that New Orleans is so close to home, combined with the fact we, in the Texas Region, should do more than is expected of us, in cooperation with the Gulf States Region, to make this A.I.A. Convention one of the biggest and best ever held. We can go a long way in extending our

Texas hospitality to the members from all other parts of the country, which will in turn give them an inkling to the kind of convention that is being proposed in Dallas in 1962.

Many delightful events are being planned for those attending this convention. I will almost guarantee that if you can attend, you will come back from this convention with memories that will live with you the rest of your lives. The charm of both old, and new Orleans is one that will make a lasting impression.

I want to extend here my sincere congratulations to the four men from the Texas region that will be elevated to "Fellowship" at the 1959 convention, namely Murrell Bennett, Ham Brown, Hubert Crane and Albert Goleman. The T.S.A. is proud to have these four names added to the list of Fellows.

With summer coming on, I know many of the chapters will not be holding meetings during these months, but I sincerely hope the officers, and executives will continue to hold regular meetings to transact the necessary business that will be required of them. It is my hope that the officers of these chapters will do their utmost to hold their organization together, so that at the early fall meeting this business may be acted on promptly. I am thinking about election of officers for the coming year. As you know by now, our own convention is going to be earlier this year, and it is going to be necessary for the newly elected officers to be known by the time of this convention.

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THIS MONTH'S COVER

Fancy ironwork is a notable characteristic of most of the balconies in the old section of New Orleans, site of the A.I.A. Convention June 22-26. While some of the ironwork was forged in New Orleans, most of it was imported from Spain — lending exquisite artistry to a proud civilization of Creoles who wanted the exterior of their homes to recite a prologue of what could be seen inside. The cover view shows the famous spire of St. Louis Cathedral in the distance. We are indebted to the Bureau of New Orleans News for this and the other pictures in this issue of our Convention City.



The old home at left, located in the "Garden District" of New Orleans, is typical of the spacious mansions constructed there prior to the Civil War. Common in these old homes are ceilings 16 to 18 feet high, Italian marble mantels, full-length mirrors enclosed in gilt frames and costly crystal chandeliers. This particular home was built in 1856 and now houses Soule College — the South's oldest business college, which, by coincidence, began in 1856.

CONVENTION CITY

*The site—New Orleans—is just
one of the many reasons you can't afford
to miss the A.I.A. Convention this month*

PERHAPS never before has an A.I.A. convention offered such significant motives for attendance, especially by members of TSA. The reasons why?

The theme of the 1959 convention is the distinguishing factor of the profession: *Design*.

Secondly, the roster of speakers and forum participants assembled by the President, John Noble Richards, F.A.I.A., and the Octagon staff is rich in distinguished names—people who are illuminating, nationally and internationally.

Edward Stone, William Pereira, Minoru Yamasaki and C. E. Pratt, RAIC—designers whose unique contributions to architecture are universally recognized—will discuss the personal conceptions which guide the creation of their work. Philip

Johnson will be moderator of this panel.

Robert Anshen is moderator of a panel discussion on "Design Factors and Resources." Panelists include such nationally recognized authorities as Lovic P. Herrington, Julian E. Garnsey and Stanley McCandless. They will discuss, respectively, the relationship of temperature, color and light to architectural design.

A third panel on the subject of "The Economic Value of Design" will be moderated by Morris Ketchum, Jr. Graham Morgan, vice-president of the U.S. Gypsum Co., and Edward Drew, public relations director of Lever Brothers, will discuss the effect of design upon production and profit.

Add to these inspiring discussions the always stellar attractions of the

architectural and products exhibitions, the national awards and the College of Fellows ceremonies. Four Texans this year will be among the College of Fellows honorees.

Another major attraction, of course, is the site of the convention, July 22 through June 26, *New Orleans*. It is indeed a fabulous, friendly and romantic city, justly famous for its hospitality.

The A.I.A. convention is scheduled for Dallas in 1960. Why not profit by an enthusiastic experience in neighboring Louisiana?

The New Orleans convention, in light of the unique cultural and historical background of the City of the Mardi Gras, will depart from the usual convention pattern. This year, more freedom for personal preferences is permitted the individual.

Many A.I.A. professional and business meetings will require the attendance of all delegates and members.

The organization and social affairs, meals, hotel and other convention accommodations will be left to the individual. (For hotel reservations contact: Hotel Housing Bureau, P.O. Box 1460, New Orleans, Louisiana.) All meetings and official functions of the convention proper will be held in the Roosevelt Hotel.)

THREE is much to see and to do in the interesting and pleasurable city and the convention schedule is patterned to afford the visitor maximum opportunity.

Occasion for stimulating research abounds in the charm of a bygone era of Spanish and French influence and in the examples of modern culture which are found in the growing and progressive city.

There's the old City Hall, a gem

of Greek Revival architecture designed by James Gallier. The work of such architects as Latrobe and Richardson are there for inspection, inspiration and reflection.

Notable among tourist attractions for diversion are the French Quarter, The Garden District with its century-old residences; Bourbon Street; and the unique Vieux Carre.

The rich blend of yesterday and today to be found in New Orleans is flavored with the finest cuisine.

IT is a "dream" convention for the ladies.

The Women's Auxiliary has arranged a series of functions typical of Southern hospitality. These include a sight-seeing tour of new civic and residential construction; a breakfast at the world-famous restaurant, Brennan's; a trip up the East Bank of the Mississippi River to view famous plantation homes and landmarks; a visit to the lovely Garden District, an interesting residential

area established in the early 19th Century.

A special Mardi Gras luncheon in the Blue Room of the Roosevelt Hotel is arranged for viewing the royal robes and jewelry as presentations of Carnival figures will be modeled.

If you care for Jazz music, then there is a tour aboard the Steamer President for a rollicking ride up the Mississippi River.

In all, a series of six two-hour tours on air conditioned busses with professional guide supplemented with a host and hostess is available through arrangements of the Women's Auxiliary of The New Orleans Chapter, A.I.A.

So, take all of these ingredients, put them together and you will see some very good reasons why the New Orleans convention has much to offer — in entertainment, refreshment, stimulating conversation and a galaxy of new ideas for you and your work for years to come.



A startling contrast with New Orleans' historic, ever-popular French Quarter is provided by its new City Hall, shown above, one of four government buildings surrounding beautifully-landscaped Duncan Plaza and covering an area of 14 acres in the central business district.

A.I.A. Awards of Merit

AWARDS of Merit in the 1959 A.I.A. competition have been conferred on two outstanding works in Texas in The Institute's annual program. They are:

*San Angelo Central High School,
San Angelo, and
The Temple Emanu-El, Dallas.*

Both works have received wide public attention and are generally considered new trends in architectural thinking and performance.

Versatility is an attribute of both works.

Architects credited in the San Angelo School award are Caudill, Rowlett & Scott of Houston, and Associate Architect Max D. Lovett, San Angelo. Honored in connection with the Temple Emanu-El award Howard R. Meyer and Max M. Sandfield, Associated Architects, Dallas, and William W. Wurster, San Francisco, Calif., consulting architect.

Of three hundred and thirty-three works reviewed by the Jury

given First Honor Awards and were ten Awards of Merit.

Serving on the Jury were: Walter Bogner, chairman, Cambridge, Mass.; Walter Gordon, Eugene, Oregon; Albert S. Golemon, Houston; Vincent G. Kling, Philadelphia, Pa.; and Harry Weese, Chicago.

The problem of providing a school for 2150 to 2500 students on a beautiful and challenging thirty acre site was solved in the San Angelo work through the design of a campus-type plant. It includes eleven separate buildings in 208,086 square feet gross area. All have year around air conditioning except three buildings — the gymnasium, the shops, and the physical education building. The project also consists of separate academic buildings for sophomores, juniors, and seniors and separate buildings for library, elective subjects, administration-cafeteria, an auditorium of 1200 capacity, fine arts, a gymnasium of 1,800 capacity with enclosed swimming pool, physical education and shops. The campus development plan features a unifying social mall, landscaped courts and a quiet lake — all supporting the basic premise that the design of outdoor spaces is equally important as the design of the buildings themselves.

Robert F. White was the landscape architect, J. W. Hall, Jr., the acoustical consultant and general construction was handled by Rose Construction Company, Abilene. R. M. Wells Company of Quanah was mechanical contractor and J. G. Bunyard & Sons of San Angelo, electrical contractor. G. B. Wadzeck is superintendent of the school. The cost was \$3,541,714 including building construction, site development, furniture, equipment, land purchase price and fees.

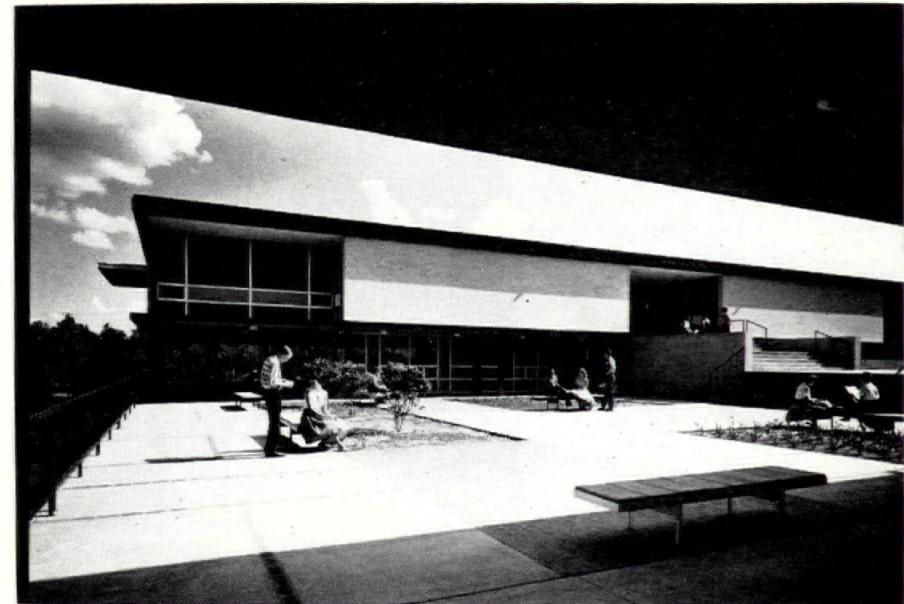
Perhaps the greatest achievement of the Temple Emanu-El in Dallas is the acceptance of the sanctuary by people of all religious faiths as a place of worship and a source of great religious inspiration. The site is an eighteen-acre tract at Hillcrest Avenue and Northwest Highway



A religious symbol of great utility is Temple Emanu-El in Dallas, with its high-domed center and many other unusual features.

and was chosen primarily for its convenience. Temple Emanu-El is a congregation of 1500 families with Sunday School requirements for approximately a thousand children. The sanctuary is comprised of an inner 83-foot diameter circular center under a high dome, encompassed by a 110-foot square perimeter area. The circular center has 750 permanent seats and the perimeter seats an additional two hundred and fifty. Behind the sanctuary is a rectangular auditorium seating a thousand, separated from the sanctuary by sliding sound-proof doors. When these doors are opened, the two areas combined seat approximately two thousand. The building also has a chapel for 250, social hall, library, administrative offices, choir rehearsal room, youth recreation rooms and three kitchens. An atrium, flanked on three sides by a covered colonnade and a fourth by a high wall, serves as cloister and as a forecourt to the sanctuary.

Responsibility for the art work on the project was given to Profes-

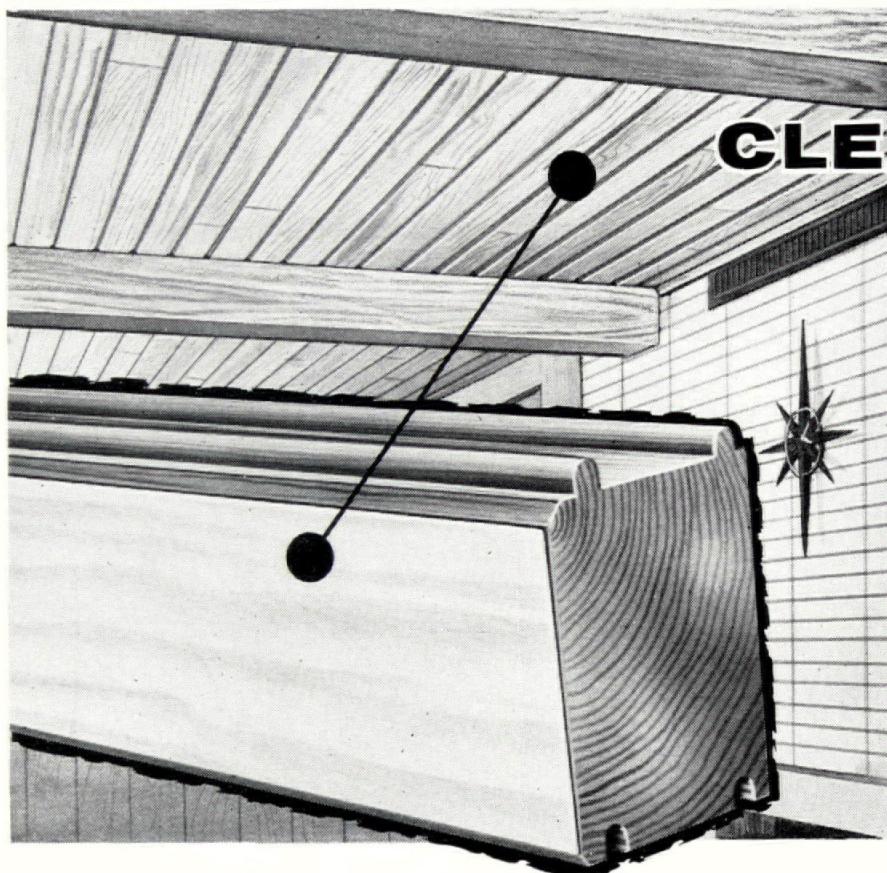


Pleasant courtyards between classroom buildings are one of the distinctive features of San Angelo's award-winning, campus-type high school.

sor Gyorgy Kepes of M.I.T., whose designs were engineered by Richard Kelly of New York. Professor Wayne Rudmose of S.M.U. was acoustical consultant and Frank W. Chappell, structural engineer. Blum and Guerrero were mechanical and

electrical engineers on the work. Marie and Arthur Berget were landscape architects, and civil engineering was done by J. R. Joiner.

The A.I.A. recognition given to these two works is gratifying to T.S.A. and its membership.



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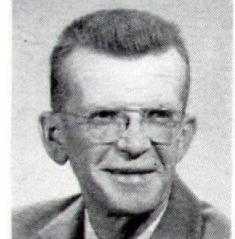


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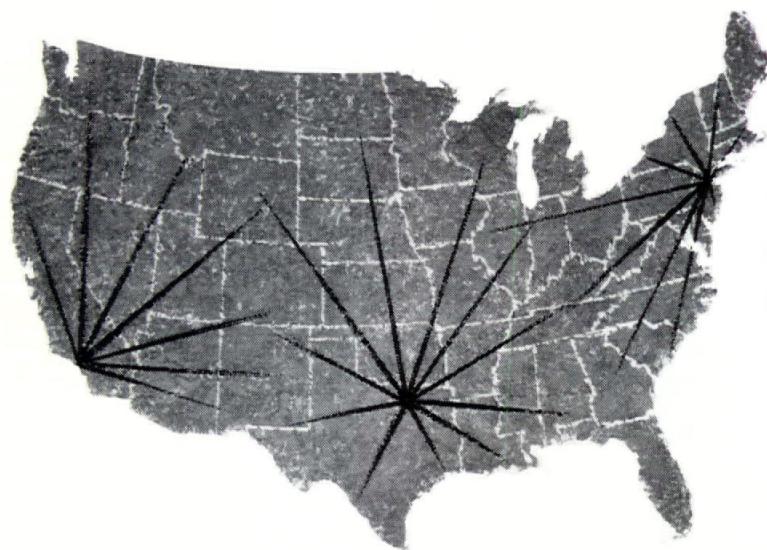
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The new factory will offer three immediate benefits to Acme users: lower freight costs, faster delivery service, and will make more readily available to the architects of this area the services of the Acme Engineering Department.



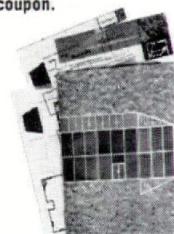
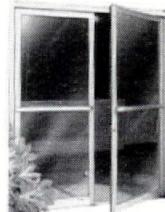
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All the news

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A somewhat puzzling news item recently called attention to the twentieth anniversary being observed by the "Top of the Mark" in San Francisco, declaring that the management estimated the famous bar had been visited by more than 20,000,000 people.

We would have sworn there were that many there the night we tried to visit it during World War II.

JUDGING from the latest trend in cocktail lounges, perhaps we should go back and visit the Top of the Mark before they decide to put the whole thing into orbit.

We are informed by one of those



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reliable sources that a new, multi-story, \$4,500,000 hotel in Bermuda Dunes, California, slated to open in December, will feature a "tower cocktail lounge with revolving floor to offer patrons a changing view . . ."

And our newest state is showing signs of trying to beat California at its own game. Says another news story:

"In the \$25,000,000 Ala Moana Shopping Center expected to open near Waikiki Beach, Honolulu, next August, a rotating top floor will house both restaurant and cocktail lounge. The entire top floor will make a complete rotation every hour, giving visitors a sweeping view of Waikiki and surrounding hills..."

For a lot of us, the floor always has revolved when we got that high. But then, perhaps they are merely trying to make it legal.

WHEN it comes to going around and around, of course, there is absolutely no substitute for Congress.

As a matter of fact, our unqualified nomination for the "Man Most Entitled to Go Nuts" is Mr. J. George Stewart, Capitol Architect, Washington, D. C.

After the new, white marble Senate Office Building was completed, the Senators decided they wanted plush carpeting on the floors instead of the tile they had specified. As a result, none of the doors would close over the carpeting.

So, while Stewart and his staff were arranging emergency surgery for every dog-gone door in the building, the mail began acting up. Dancing, no less.

Seems that the mail chutes have developed suction so strong that when a letter is placed in the chute on an upper floor, "it is snatched

from the hand and plunges like a guided missile to the sub-basement, where it hits the fancy mail conveyor belt at too great a speed, and bounces off," according to the Herald-Tribune News Service.

Adds the H-T: "In other words, the senatorial mail is going wham, cha-cha-cha, right off the senatorial conveyor belt."

The trouble seems to have been diagnosed as "negative air pressure" in the sub-basement.

But here's the pay-off: "The architect's office is now trying to figure out a way to pump more air into the sub-basement to equalize the pressure with the atmosphere of the senators' offices and hallways on the upper floors."

This equalizing air, we trust, will be heated. Otherwise, it would never rise to the occasion.

CHANCES seem excellent that a Mr. Dante Fiore, a high school teacher in Caldwell, New Jersey, will get fired, or at least change his first name, as a result of having promised to produce lightning for his physics class.

According to the Association Press:

"As he prepared to flick the switch on a high voltage coil to loose a miniature storm at the Grover Cleveland High School, nature provided an assist.

"Lightning struck the building, tearing off a small portion of the roof. No one was injured but the students were properly impressed."

That should end the talk about teachers not being qualified.

DANTE might find furniture modification a profitable field, however—as electrical fields go. The wife of an architect called her husband at the office recently, for instance, and spoke somewhat as follows:

"Mother's birthday is coming up next week. We gave her a chair last year. What do you think we ought to do for her this year?"

"Electrify it," promptly replied the architect.

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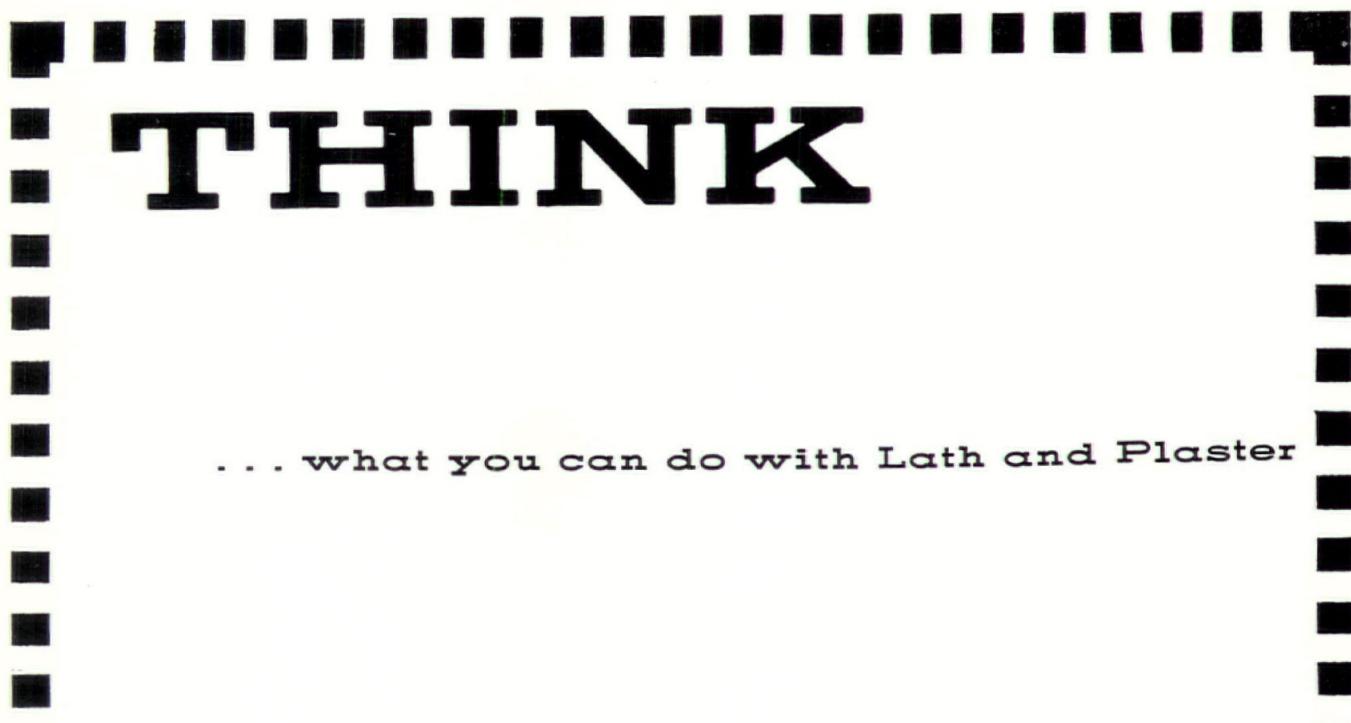
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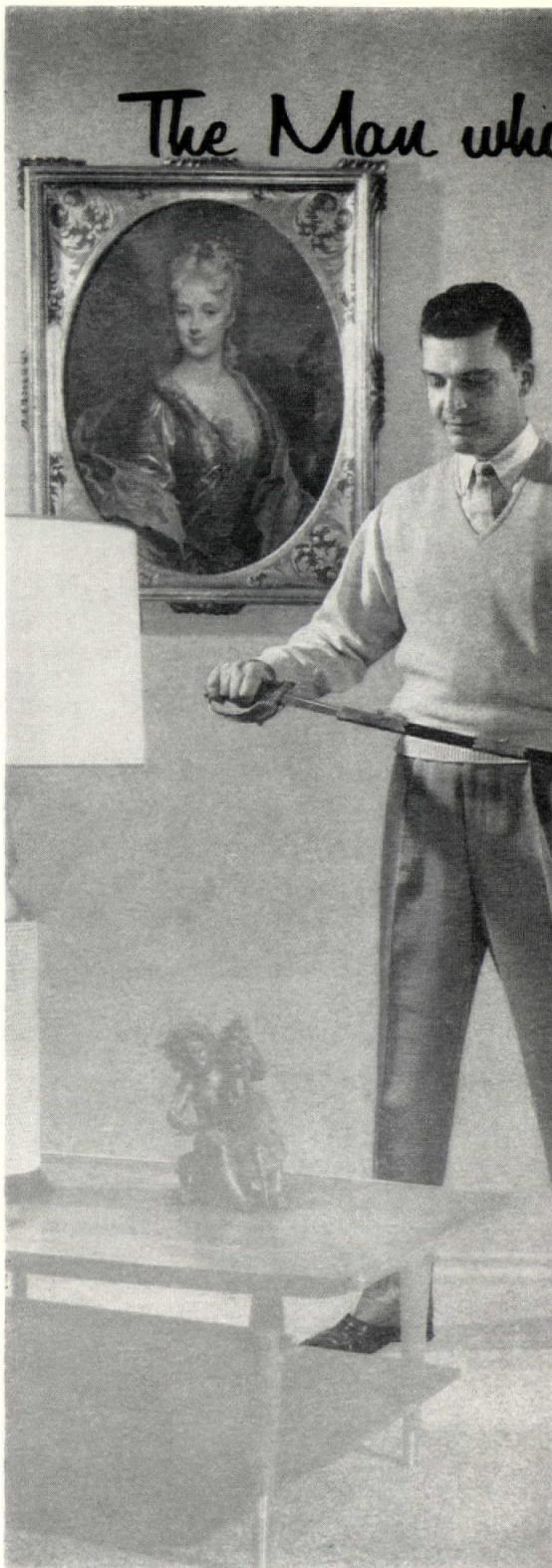
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